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Letter dated 17 April 2006 from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In accordance with Article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations, I have the honour to forward herewith a statement concerning Iraq issued by the Ministerial Committee of the League of Arab States at its meeting held at the headquarters of the League in Cairo on 12 April 2006 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yahya **Mahmassani**
Ambassador

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Annex to the letter dated 17 April 2006 from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Secretariat of the League of Arab States

Statement concerning Iraq issued by the Ministerial Committee of the League of Arab States

Cairo, 12 April 2006

In implementation of resolution 340 adopted at the summit meeting of the Council of the League of Arab States, held in Khartoum on 29 March 2006 and which called for an urgent meeting of the Ministerial Committee on Iraq to follow up on developments in the situation in Iraq, and of other resolutions adopted by the summit on this subject, and based on consultations between the Secretary-General of the League and Their Excellencies the Ministers members of the Committee, the Ministerial Committee on Iraq held a meeting at the Secretariat of the League on 12 April 2006 under the chairmanship of His Excellency Mr. Mohammad Hussain Al-Shaali, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates. The meeting was attended by Their Excellencies the Ministers for Foreign Affairs members of the Committee, the Secretary-General of the League, and Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail, Envoy of the League of Arab States and Representative of the Secretary-General of the League for Iraqi national reconciliation efforts. Iraq did not participate in the meeting.

With a view to the implementation of the aforementioned resolution of the Khartoum Summit, and after discussion of recent developments in the situation in Iraq and review of ongoing regional and international consultations and contacts on this subject, the Committee reached the following conclusions:

1. The Committee expressed its deep regret at the absence from the meeting of Iraq, which had called on the Arab Summit to convene the meeting urgently in order to assist the Iraqi people and to search for ways to provide ongoing Arab political and practical support, bring about Iraqi national reconciliation, and safeguard the national interests of the Iraqi people. In this regard, the Committee decided to leave the meeting open and to follow up with intensified consultations and contacts with the Iraqi Government, in which Iraq was expected to participate, in order to resolve this situation.

2. The Committee reaffirmed its commitment to preserving Iraq's identity as a member of the wider Arab world, which made solidarity with all religious and ethnic constituencies of brotherly Iraq incumbent upon all Arab States, and to working to ensure respect for the unity and sovereignty of Iraq, its complete independence, non-intervention in its internal affairs, and respect for the will of the Iraqi people and their choices for their future, as affirmed by the statements and declarations of all of Iraq's national leaders.

3. The Committee warned against escalation of acts of sectarian violence and practices aimed at stirring up sectarian conflict, and called on all of Iraq's

constituencies, political leaders and religious authorities to confront acts of violence and terrorism, practise self-restraint, and show no tolerance for acts that undermine Iraq's national unity, social fabric, security and stability.

4. The Committee was following with interest the ongoing consultations for the early formation of a Government of national unity, and expressed full confidence in the ability of the Iraqi people to fulfil its responsibilities in forming a Government that would be an expression of its national aspirations.

5. The Committee welcomed the convening of an Iraqi Islamic Reconciliation Conference to be hosted by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on 22 April 2006 in coordination with the Iraqi Government and the League of Arab States.

6. It welcomed the follow-up by the League of Arab States of the final communiqué of the preparatory meeting of the Iraqi National Reconciliation Conference, held at the Secretariat from 19-21 November 2005, and supported the proposal to convene a full Iraqi national reconciliation conference in Baghdad in June 2006. It also supported the convening of the preparatory meetings necessary for creating a climate conducive to the success of the Conference.

7. It welcomed the measures taken by the Secretariat in conjunction with the Iraqi Government to open a mission of the League of Arab States in Baghdad at the end of April 2006.

8. It supported continued consultations among all neighbouring States and continued contacts among all concerned international and regional parties, in particular the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, to promote stability in Iraq and to preserve its unity, independence and Arab identity.